



# THE IBIS.

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## FOURTH SERIES.

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No. XXIII. JULY 1882.

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XXV.—*On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. J. S. Jameson in South-eastern Africa, with Notes by Mr. T. Ayres.* By Captain G. E. SHELLEY.

(Plate VII.)

[Continued from p. 265, and concluded.]

133. MOTACILLA VIDUA, Sundev.

(35) Umvuli river, 10th August. Matabele name “Umvemve.” Iris dusky umber; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

The only species of Wagtail we saw on the Umvuli. They were in pairs and not uncommon.

134. MOTACILLA CAPENSIS, Linn.

Mashoona, December. Seen, but not procured.

135. ANTHUS PYRRHONOTUS, Vieill.

(58, 89) Umvuli river, 18th August and 2nd October. Iris dusky umber; bill dusky brown, with the basal half of the lower mandible yellow; tarsi and feet yellowish.

In pairs, both in August and October, but not common. They frequent the lower parts of the rocky hills, and on being

disturbed, at once fly onto the nearest tree, and when followed, continue from tree to tree. I was surprised at this habit, as also at the bird not preferring the more open grassy country; for those I saw were always in well-wooded parts.

136. *ANTHUS CAFFER*, Sund.

(126) Tatin river, 10th December.

Pretty generally distributed, but not common anywhere; almost always in pairs, frequenting the trees.

137. *MACRONYX CAPENSIS* (Linn.).

(115) Matje Umschlope, 23rd November.

Common about this locality, where there is much short grass and springy ground. They appear to be always rather partial to wet ground, often being met with in boggy places. The Inshlangeen river was the furthest north that I noticed them.

138. *MIRAFRA APIATA* (Vieill.).

(72) Umvuli river, 2nd September. Matabele name "Quatji." Iris hazel; bill pale, with the greater portion of the upper mandible dusky brown; tarsi and feet pale. Total length in the flesh 6·4 inches.

A few in this part of the country frequenting the more open grassy patches.

139. *MIRAFRA NÆVIA* (Strickl.).

(118) ♂, Matje Umschlope, 23rd November. Iris hazel; bill pale, with the culmen dusky brown; tarsi and feet pale. Total length in the flesh 6·25 inches.

A single bird was all we met with.

140. *MIRAFRA AFRICANA*, Smith.

(159) Kanyc, 8th January. Iris hazel; bill dusky brown; under mandible pale; tarsi and feet pale. Total length in the flesh 6·75 inches.

This Lark is by no means plentiful. The bird we procured was breeding. The nest was placed in a small hollow behind a tuft of grass, and was roughly composed of dry half-decayed grass, loosely put together. The eggs, three in number, are

white, almost entirely covered with umber-brown freckles or spots of various shades and milky-white blotches, the obtuse end being the most marked; they measure 0·9 inch by 0·6.

141. *PYRRHULAUADA LEUCOTIS* (Stanley).

(139) ♀, Mangwato, 26th December. Iris hazel; bill ashy white; tarsi and feet light ash-colour.

This is the commonest of the Larks about here, where it may be seen in considerable numbers in small flocks, scattered all over the plains, and more especially about the caffrcorn fields. It appears to be a very local species.

142. *PLOCEPASSER MAHALI*, Smith.

(144) Mangwato, 27th December. Iris bright reddish brown; bill, tarsi, and feet very pale brown.

This is a very common species in many parts of the Bamangwato country, and thence southward. There are many nests on the trees in a kloof near Mangwato; and on a still day their loud but not unpleasant notes resound amongst the rocks: occasionally two cock birds will fight with such eager ferocity that, clutching one another, they fall struggling to the ground; and even when thus picked up they will still continue to peck at each other. The nest is retort-shaped, with two necks, very rough outwardly, and composed of wiry grass stalks, inwardly lined with feathers. The eggs rest on a sort of platform between the two necks of the nest, and are three in number, of a pinkish white, much marked with indistinct stripes of pinkish brown, more especially at the obtuse end. The eggs measure 1 inch by 0·6.

143. *SPOROPIPES SQUAMIFRONS* (Smith).

(132) ♂, Palatswie Pan, 18th December.

We found the birds breeding. The nest appears nearly white, is roughly shaped like a retort, and placed in a low thorny mimosa; it is composed of thin wiry ends of grass and fine fibrous stalks, and warmly lined with feathers. The eggs, five in number, are greenish grey, nearly covered with umber-brown markings of various shades, and measure 0·6 inch by 0·4.

144. **TEXTOR ERYTHRORHYNCHUS**, Smith.

(154) ♂, Kooroomoorooi Pan, 2nd January. Iris dark umber; bill, tarsi, and feet bright blood-red. Total length in the flesh 10·5 inches.

These birds are exceedingly local; for I have only met with them at the present spot and on the Crocodile river, close to its junction with the Marico. The nest is placed high up in a large tree, and is composed of long twigs and coarse grass, and measures about 3 feet in diameter. It is so roughly put together that one can see through it, excepting close to the centre. The birds roost in these nests, which are probably used year after year. They feed upon seeds, berries, and insects.

145. **HYPHANTORNIS NIGRICEPS**, Layard.

(77) Umvuli river, 25th September and 6th October. Male—iris crimson; bill black; tarsi and feet pale brown. Female—iris hazel; upper mandible light dusky brown, under mandible delicate pale yellowish; tarsi and feet pale brown.

On the 1st of October we found a nest suspended over the water of one of the small rivers which run into the Umvuli on the north side; it contained two very pretty blue eggs. Subsequently a whole colony hung their nests over a pool of water close to our camp; but we left before the birds began to lay: this was in the middle of October. We later on found many nests hanging from the reeds on a small stream running into the Quac Quae river. These nests much resemble those of *H. mariquensis*, but are hung from the ends of the reeds, instead of being placed between two upright reeds, as is generally the case with *H. mariquensis*. The habits of the two species are precisely similar; and the eggs likewise vary much in colouring, some being blue while others are white speckled with brown.

146. **HYPHANTORNIS XANTHOPS**, Hartl.

(76) ♂, Umvuli river, 11th September. Iris light tawny yellow; bill black; tarsi and feet pale brown. Total length in the flesh 8 inches.

Not very common about the Umvuli. We found them feeding amongst the blossoms of the "Sausage tree."

[New to the eastern division of South Africa.—G. E. S.]

147. *HYPHANTORNIS MARIQUENSIS* (Smith).

(109) Inshlangeen river, 4th November; Bootlanami Pan, 30th December; and Makara river, 22nd January.

Not uncommon about the Inshlangeen. Mr. Jameson found them breeding at Palatswie Pan in December; and subsequently I found nests with eggs on the banks of the Makara, a tributary of the Moloppo river, where their neatly constructed nests were hanging on the bushes fringing the stream.

148. *SHARPIA AYRESI*, sp. n. (Plate VII. fig. 2.)

(125) ♂, Tatin river, 10th December. Iris dark brown; bill bright dark gamboge-yellow; tarsi and feet light ash-colour. Total length in the flesh 6 inches.

This is by no means a common bird. We found it breeding at the Tatin; it makes a rough retort-shaped nest, which it hangs, mouth downwards, from the outer twigs of rather tall trees. Sometimes a new nest is hung on the tube of the last year's structure.

Mr. Jameson found a nest to the north of the Umvuli in October, with two blue eggs in it; and at the Tatin we pulled down one of the double nests, and Mr. Jameson, on trying to put his hand up the tube, very nearly got bitten by a snake, which was lying in the nest and had swallowed the old bird as well as her blue eggs. It is evident therefore that nests of this shape do not always keep out snakes.

[*Adult male.* Head, neck, and front of the chest yellow, or rather strongly washed with yellow, the ground-colour of the crown and back of the neck being ashy, and of the throat, ear-coverts, and chest white; the forehead is margined with blackish brown, gradually shading into yellow, this dark stripe extending backwards to above the centre of the eye; back uniform ashy brown, with the mantle slightly washed with yellow; wings and tail brown, the wing-coverts and inner secondaries edged with buffish yellow, the remainder of the

quills and tail-feathers edged with bright yellow ; underparts white, shading into yellow on the throat and front of the chest ; under surface of the wings brown, with the inner margins of the quills and the coverts white, the latter slightly mottled with ashy brown and yellow. Total length in the skin 5·2 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 3·1, tail 2, tarsus 0·75.

This species appears to be most nearly allied to *Sharpia angolensis*, Bocage (Jorn. Lisb. vi. p. 258), which was described from a female, and which I only know of from the description. The black border to the forehead, and the absence of any yellow on the rump, upper tail-coverts, and abdomen, in the present species, appear to me more likely to be specific than sexual differences ; so I have much pleasure in naming it, at Mr. Jameson's request, *S. ayresi*, after one of its discoverers.—G. E. S.]

#### 149. EUPLECTES XANTHOMELAS, Rüpp.

(71) ♂ Umvuli river, 1st September. Iris umber ; bill pale, with the culmen light brown ; tarsi and feet light dusky brown. Total length in the flesh 5·75 inches.

I do not remember ever having met with these Finches before. Here we found them in small flocks of one or two males to some half a dozen or ten females. They feed on grass-seeds on the ground.

#### 150. VIDUA PARADISEA (Linn.).

(157) ♂, Kanye, 7th January. Iris dark umber ; bill black ; tarsi and feet dark brown.

This Finch is not uncommon south of Mangwato, usually in pairs, and is also found, though more sparingly, in the Rustenburg and Origstadt districts of the Transvaal. During the breeding-season, when the wonderful tail of the cock bird is fully developed, he will sometimes rise until nearly out of sight, when he suddenly descends with much velocity, and, if approached, makes off with ease and swiftness.

#### 151. VIDUA REGIA (Linn.).

(147) ♂, Selenia Pan, 28th December ; and ♂, Kooroomoorooi Pan, 2nd January. Iris dusky ; bill, tarsi, and feet brilliant red.

We saw several of these Finches chasing each other about near Selenia Pan ; and they were also fairly abundant near Kanye. They affect well-wooded country, with open patches of grass-land.

152. *URÆGINTHUS GRANATINUS* (Linn.).

(11) Limpopo, near junction of Notuane river, Transvaal, 22nd May, and Selenia Pan, 29th December. Iris and eyelids bright brick-red ; bill bright rose-red, with a beautiful pearly lustre ; tarsi and feet dusky black.

Not uncommon along the Limpopo, frequenting low mimosa shrubs, generally found in pairs or small family parties, but, I think, not ranging northward of the Tatin river.

153. *URÆGINTHUS PHÆNICOTIS* (Swains.).

(24) Umvuli river, 1st September, and Quae Quae river, 23rd October. Iris reddish orange ; bill purplish pink, with the culmen, commissure, and tip darker ; tarsi and feet pale.

One of the commonest of the small Finches, and very widely distributed.

154. *ESTRElda ERYTHRONTA* (Vieill.).

(8) Crocodile river, near Oliedrift, Transvaal, 16th May. Iris crimson ; bill light ash, with the culmen and tip black ; tarsi and feet black.

This is not at all a plentiful species along the river-bank, where we found them in pairs, feeding on the grass-seeds.

155. *ESTRElda ASTRILD* (Linn.).

Matabele, December. Seen, but not procured.

156. *ESTRElda POLYZONA* (Temm.).

Matabele, December. Seen, but not procured.

157. *LAGONOSTICTA JAMESONI*, sp. n.

(54, 124) ♀, Umvuli river, 17th August ; and ♂, Tatin river, 9th December. Matabele name "Tjuitjuitjui;" this is rather applied as a generic name to many of these Finches. Male—iris dusky brown ; bill bright bluish ash, with the culmen and tip somewhat dusky ; tarsi and feet pinkish ash. Female—iris dark brown ; bill bluish ash, with the culmen and tip dusky ; tarsi and feet dark ash.

We met with but very few of these Finches ; near the Umvuli we found them amongst the rough cover on the banks of the river, feeding on grass-seeds ; and at the Tatin they were always in pairs.

[Very closely allied to *L. rubricata* ; the red portions of the plumage paler and of a pinker hue ; the white spots on the sides of the chest scarcely visible ; sides of the head rosy pink, like the chest ; upper parts tinted with that colour, most strongly so on the sides of the crown and back of the neck.—G. E. S.]

#### 158. LAGONOSTICTA MINIMA (Vieill.).

(119) ♀ ; Tatin river, 7th and 9th December. Bill violet-pink, with the culmen nearly black ; tarsi and feet dusky brown. Male—iris red ; bill rosy lilac, with the culmen and gonyx nearly black.

We met with a small party of this species feeding amongst the short grass near the edge of some scrub, into which they immediately flew on being disturbed.

#### 159. PYTELIA MELBA (Linn.).

(12) Limpopo river, near the junction of the Notuani river, Transvaal, 22nd May, and Tatin river, 7th December. Iris light hazel ; bill light brick-red, with the culmen dusky ; tarsi and feet light ashy brown. Matabele name “Kovane.”

They frequent the low mimosa bushes, mostly in pairs, and although not uncommon on the Crocodile river and in the Rustenburg district, we did not meet with them to the north of the Tatin river.

#### 160. QUELEA QUELEA (Linn.).

(155) Kooroomoorooi Pan, 2nd January.

A small flight of these Finches visited the Pan at midday.

[This bird is better known under the incorrect title of *Quelea sanguinirostris* (Linn.). Linnæus cites (as a synonym of his *Loxia sanguinirostris*) Edw. Av. ii. p. 128, t. 271. f. 2, but adds, “sed subtus maculata non mea,” which shows that his *Loxia sanguinirostris* refers to the North-east African form, more generally known under Sundevall’s name of *aethiopica*.]

*Loxia lathami*, Smith, Rep. Expl. Centr. Afr. p. 51 (1836), is described from a young bird, but, I have no doubt, refers to this species.

It is extremely inconvenient to have to alter names thus—*Quelea lathami* (Smith, 1836) in place of *Q. sanguinirostris*, auct. nec Linn., or *Quelea quelea* (Linn. 1766) for the South-African bird, and *Quelea sanguinirostris* (Linn. 1766, nec auct.) in place of *Quelea æthiopica* (Sundevall, 1850), for the North-east African bird.

I cannot help fancying that the day is not far off when the scientific ear will accustom itself to the repetition of the same name, as *Quelea quelea*, 1766, in preference to *Quelea lathami*, 1836. Justice, the very spirit of our rules for nomenclature, appears to me to cry out against the inconsistency of rejecting, on account of sound, the older specific name to give place to the upstart generic title based upon it.—G. E. S.]

#### 161. PASSER ARCUATUS, Gmel.

(46) ♂, Spalding's, Hart river, 1st February. Iris dark brown; bill black; tarsi and feet dusky brown.

Very plentiful in this locality, where many of the low thorny bushes hold one or two of their nests, which are made of sticks roughly put together and thickly lined with wool, which is the easiest soft material for them to procure.

#### 162. PETRONIA FLAVIGULA (Sundev.).

(27) Umvuli, 2nd August and 4th September.

These Sparrows are not uncommon about the Umvuli, frequenting the high trees, and feeding much as the Tomtits do, hanging about the outer twigs and eating the young buds &c.; as, however, food of all kinds is scarce for birds, this may not be a usual habit. They are now mostly in pairs, and their loud Sparrow-like note, often repeated in the early morning, attracts one's attention to them.

[I have rejected the title *petronella*, Licht., for this bird, as *Pyrgita petronella*, Licht. Mus. Berol., appears to have remained a MS. name until Bonaparte (Consp. Gen. Av. p. 513) published the description.—G. E. S.]

163. *POLIOSPIZA GULARIS* (Smith).

(117) Matje Umschlope, 23rd November. Iris hazel; bill light dusky brown, with the under mandible pale towards the tip; tarsi and feet dusky brown. Total length in the flesh 5·5 inches.

164. *CRITHAGRA BUTYRACEA* (Linn.).

(175) ♂, Spalding's, Hart river, 28th January. In both sexes—iris dark brown; bill light brown, with the under mandible pale; tarsi and feet dusky ashy brown.

It is common here, frequenting the low mimosa bushes.

165. *CITHAGRA CHRYSOPYGA* (Swains.).

(87) ♂, Umvuli river, 1st October. Iris light brown; bill pale, with the culmen dusky; tarsi and feet ashy.

Occasionally met with in small flocks, which frequent the upper branches of the trees.

166. *FRINGILLARIA FLAVIVENTRIS* (Vicill.).

(82) ♂, Ganyani river, 17th September; ♂, 15th November, Matje Umschlope. Matabele name "N'kilo."

By no means uncommon in the Mashoona country.

167. *FRINGILLARIA TAHPISI* (Smith).

(160) ♂, Kanye, 8th January. Iris dark umber; bill, upper mandible horny black, lower one gamboge-yellow; tarsi and feet dingy brownish yellow.

Found sparsely amongst the rocks.

168. *TRERON DELALANDII* (Bp.).

(45) ♂, 14th August, ♀, 4th September, Umvuli river. Iris of a beautiful pale blue; bill very light bluish ash at the tip, with the basal portion bright orange. The female is less bright and rather smaller than the male.

It is plentiful at the Umvuli at this season, feeding on the wild fruit which the Boers call the "moople;" the tree is a handsome, dense, dark-foliaged one, and grows here and there all along the banks of the river. There is also a wild fig-tree in full bearing, with an insipid fruit of the size of a walnut, which the birds are very fond of. After leaving Rustenburg we did not meet with this bird until we arrived at the Umvuli.

169. *COLUMBA PHÆONOTA* (Gray).

(172) ♀, Dry Hart river, 25th January.

These birds were passing over in flocks from east to west this evening. The crop of our specimen was crammed with the triangular sharp-pointed thorny seed of a plant which grows along the ground in great abundance all over the country near water. These seeds are very troublesome to those who try to walk barefoot; and dogs are continually temporarily crippled by them; but the natives, who are accustomed to go barefoot, do not appear to feel them.

170. *TURTUR SEMITORQUATUS* (Rüpp.).

(95) ♀, Umvuli river, 8th October. Iris bright orange-red; bill black; tarsi and feet dark rose-red. The crop contained wild figs.

This was the only specimen we saw.

171. *TURTUR CAPICOLA* (Sundev.).172. *TURTUR SENEGALENSIS* (Linn.).

Mashoona, September and October. Seen, but not procured.

173. *ŒNA CAPENSIS* (Linn.).

(141) ♂, Mangwato, 26th December; ♀, Spalding's Hart river, 29th January. Male—iris dark umber; bill with the basal half dark lake-red, the end half a fine dark gamboge; tarsi and feet dark rose-red.

Tolerably plentiful along our route as far as the Inshlangeen river, in Matabele; but we did not notice it to the north of that locality. Southward, again, on the Hart river in Griqualand it was very abundant.

174. *PTEROCLÆ GUTTURALIS*, Smith.

(7) Klaas's Kraal, near Pilansberg, Transvaal, 13th May. Iris umber-brown; bill whitish ash; feet dingy ash.

We found large packs of this Grouse feeding on the caffre-corn, which, at this season, was hanging dead ripe on the stems. The birds were exceedingly tame, allowing one to walk up to within a few yards of them. Their note, being loud, harsh, and guttural, can be heard at a considerable dis-

tancee, and, being only uttered during flight, betrays their approach to the sportsman. They are very plentiful from Crocodile river in the Transvaal to about Tati river, the southern boundary of Matabele land; but we did not meet with them to the north of that river. They are excellent eating, split open and grilled, with a little butter.

175. *PTEROCLIS VARIEGATUS*, Burch.

(17) Limonic Pan, Bamangwato country, 2nd June. Iris very dark umber; eyelids light gamboge; bill black; tarsi and feet dusky yellow.

At about 11 o'clock hundreds of these birds came to the Limonic Pan, in small flocks of from about half a dozen to thirty. They did not remain more than a few minutes, but hastened back to their feeding-ground; and by midday all had quenched their thirst, and not one remained at the Pan. Along the Crocodile river we also found these birds, mostly in pairs, which showed that their breeding-season had then commenced. The crops of those we shot were crammed with seeds.

176. *NUMIDA CORONATA*, Finsch & Hartl.

Mashoona, December. Seen, but not procured.

177. *FRANCOLINUS SWAINSONI* (Smith).

(23) Inshlangeen river, Matabele, 4th June. Iris brown; bill black, with the lower mandible and bare skin over the nostrils, round the eyes, chin, and throat bright dark rose-red; tarsi and feet black, with a ruddy tinge. On the 4th of June I found a nest with six eggs, slightly incubated. The nest was in rough high grass near the river, in a slight cavity, and was constructed of soft dry drass and a few breast-feathers of the old birds. The eggs are of a pinkish-cream colour, finely speckled all over with chalky white, and are roundish in shape,  $1\frac{2}{16}$  inch by  $1\frac{7}{16}$ .

We found this species also at the Quae Quae river and in many other spots along our route.

178. *FRANCOLINUS PILEATUS*, Smith.

(22) Gokwe river, Bamangwato, 8th June.

Iris brown; bill ashy black; tarsi and feet ruddy.

Not uncommon in many localities in the bush-country, mostly frequenting the banks of the rivers and streams. Insects, fruit, berries, &c. were found in their crops.

179. *FRANCOLINUS GARIEPENSIS*, Smith.

(39) Umvuli river, 11th August, and in September. Iris hazel; bill dusky brown, with the basal half of the under mandible and portion of base of the upper one dingy yellow; tarsi and feet dingy pale yellow.

This is the commonest of the Francolins on the Umvuli, where it frequents the grassy and rocky slopes of the adjacent ranges. On the 7th of September a nest was found with three eggs: it was placed in a slight excavation in the ground amongst high dry grass, and was lined with soft half-decayed grass-bents, mixed with a few feathers. The eggs were slightly incubated.

180. *FRANCOLINUS SUBTORQUATUS*, Smith.

(116) Matje Umschlope, 23rd November.

Now in pairs: they may often be heard calling in the early morning. As soon as the sun has warmed the earth they love to scratch in dusty places and bask on the sheltered side of some bush, into which they immediately run when disturbed, and lie close.

181. *COTURNIX DELEGORGUEI*, Deleg.

(170) Makara river, 22nd January.

Plentiful about here. They are now breeding.

182. *TURNIX LEPURANA* (Smith).

(134) ♀, Palatswie Pan, 18th December. Iris very pale yellow; bill bluish horn-colour, with the tip black; tarsi and feet pale. Total length in the flesh 6 inches.

183. *EUPODOTIS KORI* (Burch.).

Mashoona, June. Seen, but not procured.

184. *EUPODOTIS RUFICRISTA* (Smith).

(21) Crocodile river, Transvaal, 15th May. Iris dusky tawny brown; bill yellowish ash, the culmen dusky; tarsi and feet nearly white.

Not uncommon from Rustenburg to the Umvuli river.

On the 14th of November a nest of these birds was found at Matje Umshlope, in the Matabele. The eggs, two in number, were laid on the ground, and partially hidden by a tuft of grass, and were very much incubated. They were much pointed, resembling in shape Plover's eggs. In colouring they were greyish creamy white, much spotted and blotched with dark umber; one measured 2·25 inches by 1·5, the other 2 by 1·5.

185. *EUPODOTIS MELANOGASTRA* (Rüpp.).

(85) ♂, Umvuli river, 29th September. Iris light brown, gradually darkening round the inner edge; bill pale yellowish, with the culmen dark brown; legs and feet yellowish brown. Total length in the flesh 25·5 inches.

This very scarce and solitary bird is only occasionally met with in the Mashoona country; and we did not see it in Matabele proper. I have shot them many years ago on the coast of Natal, but have not seen them since. In fact I saw in this part of Mashoona land many of the Natal coast-birds.

186. *EUPODOTIS AFRA* (Gmel.).

(151) ♂ ♀, Bommingani Pan, 1st January. Male—iris dusky tawny brown; bill horny ash at the tip, yellowish at base; tarsi and feet yellow. Female—iris light hazel; bill brownish horn-colour; tarsi and feet as in the male.

We did not meet with any of these birds to the north of Mangwato; but southward they gradually become more and more numerous, and on the Moloppo and Hart rivers they are very plentiful.

187. *EDICNEMUS VERMICULATUS*, Cab.

(102) ♂ ♀, Quae Quae river, 25th October. Iris tawny yellow; bill black, with a patch round the nostrils and the base of the lower mandible yellow; tarsi and feet very pale ashy green. The crop contained beetles.

We saw them on several occasions in the sandy bed of some parts of the Umvuli. The female is rather smaller than the male, but similar in plumage. They appear to be partial to the dry sandy beds of rivers, but I have never met with

them out of Mashoona land, and did not see any after leaving the Quae Quae.

188. *ŒDICNEMUS CAPENSIS*, Licht.

(112) ♂, Matje Umschlope, 14th November; and ♂, Spaldings, Hart river, 4th February.

This species is to be found throughout all the parts of South Africa I have visited.

189. *RHINOPTILUS BICINCTUS* (Temm.).

(167) Siklogolo river, 17th January, and Spalding's, Hart river, 27th January and 2nd February. The crop contained white ants.

They are rather local birds. I have shot them about Potchefstroom, in the Transvaal.

190. *CHETTUSIA CORONATA* (Gm.).

(180) Spalding's, Hart river, 4th February.

Plentiful about here in flocks of some twenty individuals.

191. *HOPLOPTERUS SPECIOSUS* (Licht.).

(169) ♀, Great Chine Pan, 19th January.

It is not nearly so plentiful here as in some parts of the Transvaal, especially along the Mooi river.

192. *LOBIVANELLUS LATERALIS* (Smith).

193. *BALEARICA REGULORUM* (Licht.).

194. *GRUS CARUNCULATUS* (Gm.).

195. *GRUS PARADISEA* (Licht.).

196. *ARDEA GOLIATH*, Temm.

Mashoona, September and October. Seen, but not procured.

197. *ARDEA INTERMEDIA*, Wagl.

(64) Spalding's, Hart river, 1st February. Matabele name "Intarga." Iris pale yellow; bare skin round the eye and base of the bill pale greenish yellow; bill bright gamboge-yellow; legs and feet black.

A pair of these Egrets were met with on the swampy banks of the river, which was in flood, flying lazily up and down the stream to their favourite feeding-haunts.

198. *ARDEA BUBULCUS*, Savign.

(103) ♂, Spalding's, Hart river, 7th February.

This was a solitary bird feeding amongst the high rushy grasses of a swamp. We now and again saw a flock feeding, as they often do, amongst the herds of cattle. At the Tati river in December we saw a small flock. About Potchefstroom, in the Transvaal, it is common.

199. *ARDETTA ATRICAPILLA* (Afzel.).

(29) Umvuli river, 10th September, and Quae Quae river, 25th October. Adult female—iris yellow; darker towards the outer edge; bill, upper mandible horny black, under mandible greenish yellow; bare skin before and round the eye yellow; tarsi and feet yellow, with the upper surface light yellowish brown. Total length in the flesh 18 inches.

On the Umvuli we found the species solitary and rare, but met with a family party on the Quae Quae amongst dense reeds and low trees in the bed of a small stream.

200. *ARDETTA STURMI* (Wagl.).

(153) ♂, Kooroomoorooi Pan, 2nd January. Iris brownish lake; bill black, with the bare skin at the base light green; the bare skin round the eye dusky blue; tarsi and feet chrome-yellow, suffused with dusky brown. Total length in the flesh 16 inches. The crop contained water-snails and frogs.

We saw three on the pan, which, on being disturbed, lighted on some of the low overhanging trees before taking their final departure.

201. *NYCTICORAX GRISEUS* (Linn.).

(107) Inshlangeen river, 4th November.

We here shot an adult female and a young male, the only birds of the kind we saw during our journey. In the Transvaal they appear to be commoner than to the northward.

202. *SCOPUS UMBRETTA*, Gm.

Mashoona, September and October. Seen, but not procured.

203. *CICONIA ABDIMII*, Licht.

(171) ♂, Makara river, 22nd January; and ♂, Spalding's

Hart river, 2nd February. Iris very light tawny brown ; bill pale green, with the tip and just round the base crimson ; chin and bare skin on the sides of the eyes and front crimson ; bare skin on the sides of the head cobalt blue ; shanks and tarsi dark reddish brown ; knees and feet bright crimson.

From here all the way down the Hart river to Spalding's we found these birds by myriads in large flocks feeding on beetles, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. Although they were excessively fat, their flesh was not good eating. We saw this Stork also in some numbers in Matabele land in December. They frequent open grassy country in the neighbourhood of rivers and swamps. On hot days they often soar to an immense height, appearing as mere specks in the clear blue sky as they wheel slowly round and round.

204. *MYCTERIA SENEGALENSIS*, Shaw.

Mashoona, September and October. Seen, but not procured.

205. *LEPTOPTILUS CRUMENIFERUS* (Cuv.).

(96) Umvuli river, 9th October.

Shot by Mr. Jameson while feeding on a dead rhinoceros in company with a flock of Vultures. I am told that this bird is able to cut a hole in a dead rhinoceros when the Vultures cannot do so. The Boers call it the King of the Vultures, and say that when it chooses it will keep the Vultures from carrion until it has satisfied itself ; but this does not agree with the experience of Mr. Selous and other hunters. Although I have always met with it singly, Mr. Selous informs me that along the Chobe river and the Zambezi he has seen great numbers together ; and my brother Walter, when living in Pretoria, saw a large flock of them one day assemble just outside the town to feed upon some mules that had died of horse-sickness. This is, I believe, the Marabout Stork, the beautiful white under tail-coverts of which ladies, in the olden times, wore in their hats and hair.

206. *TOTANUS CANESCENS* (Gm.).

*Scolopax totanus*, Linn. S. N. i. p. 145.

Mashoona, September, October, and December. Seen, but not procured.

[In the naming of this species, as well as in that of two of the Rails, I have not adopted the oldest and, in my opinion, proper titles given to them by Linnaeus, in order to agree with the more usual nomenclature adopted by Mr. Dresser in his work on the Birds of Europe.—G. E. S.]

**207. TOTANUS GLAREOLA (Linn.).**

(174) Spalding's, Hart river, 27th January and 9th February.

The river, which is now in flood, has near its banks many soft muddy spots, where these Sandpipers abound, feeding in small flocks; and a solitary bird may here and there be flushed from the grass at the edge of the water.

**208. GALLINAGO NIGRIPENNIS, Bp.**

Mashoona, September and October. Seen, but not procured.

**209. RHYNCHÆA CAPENSIS (Linn.).**

(108) Inshlangeen river, 4th November, and Selenia Pan, 29th December.

We only met with these birds on two occasions. At Inshlangee we found several amongst the grassy shallows of the river.

**210. CREX PRATENSIS, Bechst.**

*Rallus crex*, Linn. S. N. i. p. 261.

(135) Palatswie Pan, 18th December.

We only met with a single specimen.

**211. PORZANA MARUETTA (Leach).**

*Rallus porzana*, Linn. S. N. i. p. 262.

(147) ♀, Selenia Pan, 29th December. Iris light brown; bill light olive-green, changing into yellow at the base of the lower mandible, and into red on the upper one.

This is a rare bird in all the parts of South Africa I have visited.

**212. GALLINULA ANGULATA, Sundev.**

(148) ♀ immature, Selenia Pan, 29th December, and ♀ adult, Spalding's, Hart river, 3rd February. Immature female—iris light greyish brown; bill pale greenish yellow,

with the culmen dusky brown ; tarsi and feet pale greenish. Adult female—iris bright reddish brown ; bill pale yellow, with the culmen and shield bright scarlet ; tarsi and feet pale flesh-colour, with the upper surface suffused with pale yellowish green.

This bird is scarce, but widely distributed over South Africa. The pans, which are the resort of so many Waders during this portion of the year, are entirely dried up during the winter rainless months, and the surrounding country so parched that travelling becomes difficult. I took an apparently perfect egg out of the adult female ; it was of a greenish-white colour, with a few very minute brown specks about the obtuse end, in shape very similar to that of a common hen's egg, and measured 1·4 inches by 1.

#### 213. *PARRA AFRICANA*, Gm.

(152) ♂, Kooroomoorooi Pan, 2nd January. Iris dark hazel ; bill and frontal shield pale ashy blue ; tarsi, feet, and claws pale ash-colour.

Although there were several on this pan, we only succeeded in shooting one, owing to their cleverness in hiding amongst the water-grasses thinly growing in the shallow water.

#### 214. *PODICA PETERSI*, Hartl.

(4) Elands river, Rustenburg district, Transvaal, 11th May. Irides light tawny brown ; bill dull red, with the culmen dusky brown ; tarsi and feet brilliant light vermillion. The crop contained insects. This is a very scarce bird, and exceedingly shy and retiring in its habits. We never met with them in any of the Matabele or Mashoona rivers.

#### 215. *SARKIDIORNIS MELANOTUS* (Penn.).

(164) ♂, Molopo river, 12th January.

Rather sparingly distributed over this part of the country. In February I saw several flying over the Hart river. They are also to be found occasionally in the Transvaal.

#### \* 216. *CHENALOPEX AEGYPTIUS* (Linn.).

Mashoona, September and October. Seen, but not procured.

217. *ANAS XANTHORHYNCHUS*, Forst.

Mashoona, December. Seen, but not procured.

218. *PLOTUS LEVAILLANTI*, Licht.

(100) ♂, Quae Quae river, 23rd October. Iris dingy orange; bill pale greenish ash, darker along the culmen; tarsi and feet dusky brown.

The Darter is found sparsely on most of the rivers of Mashoona land, but is more abundant in the Transvaal and Natal. Beware how you handle a wounded bird: this one made a sudden dart at my eye; and it was only by the merest instinct of self-preservation that I put my hand up in time to receive the thrust. The upper mandible pierced with great force to the bone of my thumb, and, the bill being serrated, stuck there amongst the muscles, giving considerable pain; and I had to pull hard to get it out.

219. *STRUTHIO CAMELUS*, Linn.

(73) Young ♂, Umvuli, 4th September. Iris light dusky brown; bill pale horn-colour, rather dusky along the culmen; legs and feet yellowish ash.

The Ostrich is sparingly distributed throughout the Mashoona country, frequenting generally the more open shallow valleys. Only about a dozen birds were killed by all the hunters of our party, numbering about twenty. Two or three clutches of young birds were caught this month. In the Bamangwato country they are much more plentiful.

XXVI.—*Further Contributions to the Ornithology of Japan.*

By HENRY SEEBOHM.

THROUGH the kindness of Capt. Blakiston, who has forwarded me another box of skins from Hakodate, I am able to add a few species to the birds of Japan, and to clear up one or two doubtful points in the previous papers on this subject in 'The Ibis' (1878, pp. 209–250, and 1879, pp. 18–43).

*SIMORHYNCHUS CRISTATELLUS* (*Ibis*, 1879, p. 21).

The skin sent (No. 2605) is from the Kurile Islands.